

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
AND DISCIPLINE

In the matter of
John R. Harrison, M.D.

C96-054
C96-285
C97-016
C97-049

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

This matter came to the attention of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, (the "Board"), by way of four complaints filed with the Board. The Complaints alleged, inter alia, an inability of the Respondent to deal appropriately with Medicare billing and co-payment issues, abandonment of his practice, and evidence that indicates that the Respondent is impaired. The Respondent filed answers to the Complaints himself and through his attorney. He was asked to appear before an Investigating Subcommittee of the Board and did so accompanied by his attorney. The Respondent's answers to questions posed by the Board indicated an inability of the Respondent to grasp the nature of the issues and respond to them appropriately. Following his appearance at the Investigating Committee, the Respondent left his practice and moved to an unknown location.

FINDINGS

1. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline received a Complaint from the Federal Medicare Program, Fraud and Abuse Unit, Blue Cross Blue Shield indicating a refusal by the Respondent to deal with or talk to representatives of Medicare regarding questions it had about the Respondent's billing.

2. Correspondence sent to the Fraud Unit at Medicare are addressed to "spy people."

3. The Respondent accuses Medicare staff in letters sent to the staff of sending spies to his office, sending fake patients to physician's offices, and "engaging in unconstitutional, illegal, unethical activity . . . paid for by the taxpayers."

4. The Respondent was advised by Medicare that he was in violation of Medicare Limiting Charge Regulation between January and July of 1996. In the letter of response to Medicare the Respondent writes: "To Medicare Spy Unit. There is no evidence whatsoever that the medical spies at Medicare have cleaned up their act. Like most physicians in the country I am aware and able to prove that I have been harassed by your medical spy system."

5. The Respondent has billed beneficiaries above and beyond the allowable charge for such medical services. Additionally, the Respondent has refused to submit a Medicare claim form for beneficiaries to be reimbursed. The Respondent has also failed to reimburse beneficiaries who have been overcharged by the Respondent.

6. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline also received Complaints from patients that allege that the Respondent had failed to attend to the medical needs of his patients by abandoning his practice.

7. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline finds that certain patients were left without the ability to gain access to their medical records, get appropriate refills on prescriptions for chronic conditions, and arrived at the Respondent's office for appointments only to find that the Respondent was not available and could not be found.

8. One Medicare beneficiary claimed that the Respondent pushed her out of his office for no reason. The beneficiary alleged that the Respondent grabbed her and pushed her out and then slammed the door on her arm. The beneficiary advised Medicare that the Respondent sent her a letter urging her to get a lawyer since he is being investigated.

9. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline finds that the Respondent's responses to questions and written requests are confusing and incomprehensible. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline finds that the continuation in the practice of medicine by John R. Harrison, M.D. would constitute an immediate danger to the public.

10. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, through its Investigating Committee, finds that John R. Harrison, M.D. is in violation of R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.1 (18) due to mental impairment. Further, recommends that the Director of Health Suspend

the license to practice medicine issued to John R. Harrison, M.D., number MD04378.

The Director of Health has received the aforesaid recommendation, has considered the same along with documentary evidence including the Respondent's written answers to the complaints, all of which were part of the investigative file, and find that the evidence in her possession indicates that John R. Harrison, M.D.'s continuation in the practice of medicine would constitute an immediate danger to the public.

ORDER

In accordance with the above finding, the license to practice medicine in the State of Rhode Island, number MD04378, issued to John R. Harrison, M.D. is hereby **SUSPENDED** effective on the date below until further notice of the Board. The Respondent has a right to a hearing pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-37-8.

Patricia A. Nolan MD MPH
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
Director of Health

September 12, 1997
DATE

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the within ORDER was mailed to John R. Harrison, M.D., V.A. Medical Center, 2201 North Broadwell Avenue, Grand Island, NB 68803; 300 Tollgate Road, Warwick, RI 02886 and 940 Quaker Lane, #604, Warwick, RI 02818.

Bruce McFadyen
September 12, 1997